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Website Summaries

1) <http://www.wordle.net/>

* This website is an excellent resource for all grades. Research shows that student exposure to new vocabulary words is essential for their ability to retain the knowledge thereof. This website allows for the teacher to present the new vocabulary words in a fun and interesting way. When appealing to student interests, they are more likely to be engaged. Presenting the vocabulary words in a way that captivates students’ attention increases the chances of student retention of the words. In my classroom, this site would be used as a tool to help familiarize students with their vocabulary words. For each set of new vocabulary words, I will create a new arrangement of the words every day. The students will constantly be exposed to their vocabulary words.

2) <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

* This website is an excellent resource for students in all grades. It’s an amazing tool that enhances students’ writing skills, while igniting their creativity. This resource allows students the opportunity to create their own newspaper articles. As a teacher, I’m constantly looking for ways to improve my students’ writing skills and new literacy skills while keeping my students engaged. In my classroom, this site would be used as a tool to engage students in their writing. I would implement this resource in my classroom as an assessment tool for students. In the middle or at the end of a unit (as a mid way checkpoint or end of unit assessment), the students would be responsible for creating a news article that contains specific qualifications to demonstrate their understanding of the content.

3) <http://classtools.net/>\*

* This is an absolutely amazing resource for teachers to use to help the visual learners in my classroom. Classtools.net provides a plethora of graphic organizer templates, amongst other interactive, academic tools, such as games, quizzes, and activities. In my classroom, I would use this site as a resource for both me (the teacher) and the students. As the teacher, I would use the graphic organizers and quizzes to aid in my instruction. The graphic organizers would be used as a differentiation strategy for the ELLs and visual learners. The quizzes would be used with the Mimio as interactive tools to check for student understanding during a lesson or whole unit. The games and activities would be resource tools for the students. These tools would be used at the stations. I really enjoyed the resources provided by this website. There are so many tools I would use in my classroom during stations! The virtual book is a great tool to use for struggling readers. The random name picker is a great tool to use to ensure every student has a chance to speak and share their opinion during a whole group discussion.

4) <http://www.visuwords.com/>\*

* This is an excellent resource to help students with their vocabulary words! This website gives clear and concise directions on how to create a virtual word web. Instead of requiring the students to hand write word webs for their vocabulary words, I will give the students the option to create a virtual word web. The students will use the visuwords to create a word web for each of their vocabulary words. Each word web must include the word, the definition of the word, a picture of the word, a sentence accurately using the word, a synonym, and an antonym. The students would have the option to make a visuword web during stations or after completing other assignments.

5) <http://www.kerpoof.com/>

* This website is another great resource for both the teacher and the students. As the teacher, I would use the “teacher tools” page to help me plan interactive activities for the students to practice. The “teacher tools” page provides ideas and lesson plans for all different subjects and for specific skills. The lesson plans are geared toward the tools provided by the website for the students. One of my favorite features of this website is the “Tell a Story” page. This page allows the students to write and illustrate their very own stories. During stations, the students would create a story based on a given prompt. The students have the freedom of creating their own story (watched carefully by the teacher for grade level appropriateness). Once the students have written and illustrated their story, they will have time to sit in the authors chair and tell about their story using the projector and Mimio.